

GUIDE TO THE SI4 ABIPON FILE

The SI4 Abipon file is based on the work of Martin Dobrizhoffer, a Jesuit Missionary for 18 years (1749-1768) in Paraguay.

Dobrizhoffers' three volume report on the Abipon has been described as one of the most famous and important early works on the South American Indians. While this file is lacking in many of the details of ethnographic description supplied by trained observers, it has reasonably complete information on most phases of culture. Volumes one and three, not processed for the file, contain scattered references to native culture. The author did not, however, identify specifically the groups involved in most cases. Since this material can only be used by an expert on the area, it has not been processed to prevent erroneous identifications. The material is important because of the early date at which it was collected. The Abipon as a functioning cultural group have long since ceased to exist, so no further material can be gathered on this group. The short source 2: Metraux is provided to give historical orientation, though nearly all the information contained comes from Dobrizhoffer. -- Analyst.

Processed in 1960